



St. Mark's Primary School  
May 2014  
Newsletter No. 10



Dear Parents & Carers

Staff News

On Thursday of last week I interviewed 13 applicants for 3 new permanent posts in St. Mark's for the new school session. I'm delighted to inform you that Miss McAnally (current Pr.2b teacher) was one of the successful candidates. The other two appointments will take up their permanent posts in August. Sadly at the end of term we will say goodbye and good luck to some of our current staff:



Mrs Gray, who is one of our Learning Support teachers, has decided to take early retirement after 20 years of dedicated service to St. Mark's. I would like to personally thank her on behalf of all the staff and pupils for her excellent contribution to the learning and teaching in St. Mark's over the years. We wish her a long and healthy retirement.

Mrs. Finnigan will be finishing up at the end of June. As office manager, she has helped and supported so many in our school community over the past 5 years. I personally would like to thank her for all the help and support she has given to me over the years. Mrs. Finnigan has always worked above and beyond her contractual duties to support your children, staff and myself. We wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Miss Gallanagh will be getting married in July and is off to begin married life and continue her teaching career in Aberdeen. I know she will be missed by many in our school community. We would like to wish her good luck in her new post - Aberdeen are lucky to be getting such an excellent teacher.

For those of you who remember, Miss Cassidy left us to take up a two year temporary post in Abu Dubai. Miss Cassidy has now decided to resign her position permanently in St. Mark's to take up a new teaching post in Madrid. I know she will be missed by pupils and staff.

Miss O'Neil our P5b teacher will finish her NQT year in June - we are delighted she has successfully completed her standard for full registration as a teacher. We wish her every success in the future.

Finally, Mrs Maxwell, who has been with us from January '14 as learning support teacher will also be leaving at the end of June. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and support.

A full list of teachers and their classes will be issued after the 19<sup>th</sup> June '14.

## First Holy Communion

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May our Primary 4 pupils made their First Holy Communion in St John's Church.

Despite the weather the pupils had a lovely day and certainly did the school and parents proud. The following day, many of the pupils attended and took part in the May Procession which was led by Bishop John Keenan.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Pr. 4 teachers, Miss Green and Mrs Seddon, for preparing the children so incredibly well for this special Sacrament. In addition, I would like to say a special thank you to Miss Healey for putting so much time and effort into the organisation of our First Holy Communion.



## P7 Confirmation

Our Primary 7 class made their Confirmation on the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Once again, can I take this opportunity to thank the Pr. 7 teachers, Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Walker and Mrs. Hallan for all their hard work in preparing the children so well to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit with such reflection and maturity.

Class pictures have been issued to those who purchased these prior to the Confirmation. There are still a few copies available for purchase from the school office at a cost of £6. Thank you to our Parent Council for organising the photography for both events.

## Rotary Quiz



On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 4 pupils from primary 7 represented St. Mark's at the annual Rotary quiz. The contestants competed against other primary schools in East Renfrewshire. I'm delighted to inform you that our pupils received 3<sup>rd</sup> place! Can I thank Lana McBride, Charlie Gardner, Olivia Coutts and Leo I to for all their hard work in preparation for this event – well done! Thank you to Mrs. Hamilton and Miss Walker for taking them to this event.

## News from Our Classes

### Primary 5a & 5b

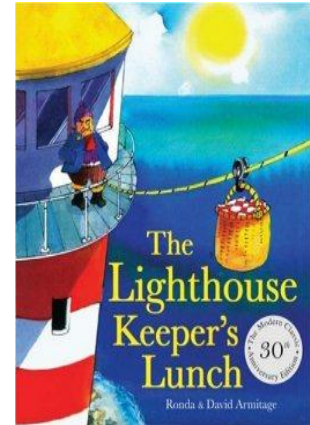
In Primary 5a and 5b we had a lovely afternoon releasing our painted-lady butterflies into the school garden during a class picnic. We are now learning about the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014. We have been set an exciting homework task, to create a Commonwealth venue using only recyclable material.

### Primary 1a & 1b

Primary 1a and 1b have been reading "The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch". For Science, we have been exploring simple forces such as pushes and pulls. We also made a pulley to help Mr Grinling get his lunch from his little white cottage. We hope Bert, Fred and Tom -those scavenging seagulls -don't try to steal his scrumptious delights!

In Art, we have made chalk lighthouses in cold colours and captured Bert, Tom and Fred in pencil and oil pastel. We have also been writing about the characters, especially those naughty seagulls and that ginger cat, Hamish.

**PS** Primary 1a and 1b have written special poems which will be on sale at the Summer Fete.



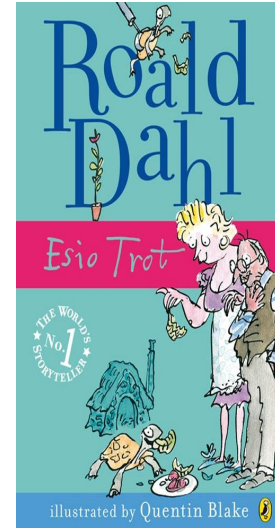
### Primary 2a & 2b

Primary 2 have decided to hold their very own 'Commonwealth Cake and Candy' on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. All money raised will contribute towards fundraising for the Dambo School in Kaponda, Malawi. Sweet treats such as Jamaican Ginger cake, Australian Lamingtons, Scottish tablet and other traditional confectionary from countries within the Commonwealth will be on offer.



### Primary 3a & 3b

This term in Primary 3b, we are reading the novel *Esio Trot* by Roald Dahl. It is about a man called Mr Hoppy who secretly loves his neighbour, Mrs Silver. She longs for her pet tortoise to grow, so Mr Hoppy makes a tortoise catcher to swap the tortoise for a bigger one each week! One of our homework tasks was to make a tortoise catcher of our own and write a presentation about it. We then voted for the one that we thought was the best. Antonia Edgar and Emma Carolan were the joint winners and shared the prize of a book token and sweets! Well done to both of you! Please have a look on our class page on the school website to see photographs of our fabulous tortoise catchers!



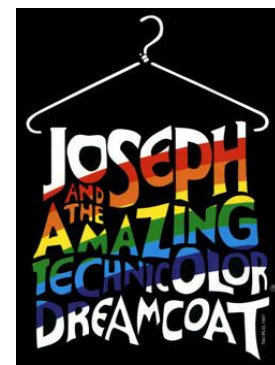
Primary 3b are studying The Rainforest as their Social Studies topic this term. On Monday 2nd June they will be having a visit from *The Animal Man* who will be bringing along a selection of animals found in the Rainforest including: a Chinese water dragon, a bearded dragon lizard, a leopard gecko, a tortoise, a frog, various snakes and creepy crawlies and bugs! Keep an eye on their class page on the school website for photographs.

### M & M Production of A Little Princess

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May the whole school was treated to a production of "A Little Princess" by M & M Theatre Group. A fantastic time was had by all.

### Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Our drama club have been working exceptionally hard since January, practising their lines and brushing up on their singing for our school production of Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Everyone is getting very excited as we lead up to the final weeks of preparation. This year our Primary 5, 6 & 7 will be involved in the show. Our day performance will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm with the evening performance on the 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and will be limited to 4 tickets per family. The cost for each ticket will be £2 for adults and £1 concessions.



## Report Cards

Our report cards will be issued to pupils on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June.



## Neilston Show

Once again we had a winning entry for the art competition at the Neilston Show. A massive well done to Emily Wilson P6 who was the show's overall winner. Here are some of our other fantastic entries.



Glorious Chicken  
By Sean Durie p6



Farmyard Cow  
By Dylan Taylor p3

## School Uniform Reminder

Academy uniforms will visit the school on Tuesday 3rd June between 3-4pm to measure and take orders from parents/carers wishing to have their child measured for a school jacket or blazer. If you do not need your child measured you are still very welcome to order and pay for these items via the school prior to the 3rd June.

Please note, delivery of blazers and jackets will be made to the school and available for pick up on the in-service day 11th August 2014 (if items are delivered prior to this date we will contact parent/guardian) **Orders will not be taken for jackets or blazers after 3rd June.**

This year, St Mark's have a limited stock of school uniforms available to purchase directly from the school. This makes the task of purchasing these items both convenient and economical for parents/carers.





## **Extension and Upgrade Update**

Our new extension will be officially opened on 4<sup>th</sup> June by Councillor Elaine Green, Convener for Education and Equalities and will be blessed by Bishop John Keenan.

The opening ceremony will start at 9.15am. As there are a limited number of spaces, there will be a ballot for parents and carers who wish to attend the ceremony. A member of the Parent Council will pull names out of a hat.

A letter was recently issues to all parents/ carers interested in attending the ceremony, please return the tear off slip at the bottom of the letter by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Each person will be allocated two tickets.

For those parents who are unsuccessful, there will be an open afternoon on the 4<sup>th</sup> June between 2-3pm to ensure that everyone gets a chance to see our new extension and refurbished school. Everyone is welcome to the open afternoon.



### **Lost Property**

Can we please appeal again for Parents to label all items of clothing and ask parents/carers & children to check for any lost property on a regular basis. Our lost property box will be cleared on the last day of term.



### **Lunch Money**

Can we please ask if your child has any outstanding lunch money that this is paid back to the school before the end of term. If you are unsure of your child's outstanding balance please contact the school office.

It is important that your child has sufficient funds in their account each day to avoid outstanding balances accruing.

### **P7 Residential Trip 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

We remind parents/carers that the school bank is opened each Friday to allow payments to be made towards next years P7 residential trip to Lockerbie Manor, payments can also be made using the ERC website.

### **Primary 1 Intake for 14-15**

I am delighted to inform you that 58 pupils have enrolled for Primary 1 in the new session. At present the numbers who attend St. Mark's is 331. In the new session this will increase to 354 pupils.

## Parent Council News



### Summer Fete

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 12pm-2pm

Our annual summer fete is upon us, and we hope that you can come and support this event. We hope to make this the biggest and best yet.

We are still looking for donations of toiletries, books, raffle prizes, used clean toys, and home baking to be handed in on the day.

Entrance cost:

£1 – Adults 50p- Child



### Dates for your Diary

31 May 2014	12 Noon. St Mark's Parent Council Summer Fete
3 June 2014	P7 Bowling at Arthurlie Bowling Club
3 June 2014	Academy Uniforms in Hall 3-4 Blazer/Jacket Orders
3 & 16 <sup>th</sup> June	New P1 Induction Afternoon
4 June 2014	Official Opening of St Mark's Extension
5 June 2014	Gala Day Football Barrhead High School
10 June 2014	School Show Afternoon Performance 1.30pm
11 June 2014	School Show Evening Performance 7pm
12 & 13 June	P7 Induction Days at St Luke's
13 June 2014	P2a & 2b Trip to People's Palace
16 June 2014	P3b Trip to Amazonia
17 June 2014	P5 Tennis Festival Cowan Park 9.30 - 11.30am
17 June 2014	P7 Leaver's Mass and Dance
18 June 2014	P4/5 Trip to Science Centre
20 June 2014	Sports Day - All Day (more details to follow)
23 June 2014	P1 & Coral Reef trip to Calderglen
25 June 2014	Awards Ceremony 9.15am
25 June 2014	School Closes 1.30pm

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**I have received and read the April 2014. (Please tear off and return to the school).**

**Name of child.....**

**Room.....**

**Signature of Parent/Carer .....**

We value your comments and/or suggestions

